

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action mailed October 27, 2004.

The requisite Petition and Fees accompany this Amendment.

In Paragraph 1 of the Detailed Action, the Examiner indicates that applicant's IDS filed May 2, 2002 has not been considered fully because the document is not entirely legible. In response, applicant submits a typed and printed information disclosure statement legibly setting forth the patents cited in the May 2, 2002 Information Disclosure Statement. To ensure compliance with all applicable old and new rules, paper copies of all the cited patent references accompany the new edition of this information disclosure statement.

In Paragraph 2 of the Detailed Action, certain claims have been objected to as being in improper form because multiple dependent claims cannot depend from other multiple dependent claims. By this Amendment, the claims have been revised so as to eliminate any multiple dependency. The claims objected to are accordingly in condition for consideration and allowance.

In Paragraphs 3-5 of the Detailed Action, various claims are rejected as being unpatentable over Baumann 6,117,275. In response, claims 1 and 37 have been amended to more clearly point out the invention. More specifically, claim 1 has been amended to explicitly recite that the "direct condensation module comprises a container which holds a static heat absorbing mass through which vapor is directly passed for condensing the vapor and collection the solvent in the liquid phase." Further, the invention includes a conduit "for directing the vapor substantially without condensation from said distillation chamber directly

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into contact with said heat absorbing mass within the said container." Baumann does not disclose, teach or even suggest such an arrangement. Similarly independent claim 36 calls for a static "heat absorbing mass (to be) permeable to vapor and condensate passing through said mass and either being non-adsorbent of said condensate or being comprised of the same liquid as said condensate."

Others claims recite other distinct points of novelty. For example, dependent claim 13 calls for a control means "comprising a computer, sensing means for sensing a parameter which is dependant upon the rate of vaporization of solvent within said distillation chamber and...". No such system is even hinted at in Baumann; indeed the term "computer" does not appear in the Baumann text and is not suggested in any of the Baumann drawings. Independent claim 45 likewise calls for a "control means comprising a computer, sensing means..." and other apparatus not suggested by Baumann.

Paragraph 6 of the Detailed Action refers to prior art made of record and not relied upon. These references do not, either alone or in combination, anticipate or render the claimed invention obvious.

Since the application now appears in condition for allowance, an early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Primary Examiner perceives formal or other objections to the claims, or to any other part of the application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the below provided telephone number. Prompt attention will be given to any such contact with a view to placing the application in condition for allowance.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any unpaid fees to deposit account number 50-1794.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: May 11, 2005 Todd S. Parkhurst (Reg. #26,494)
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States
Postal Service as First Class Mail on May 11, 2005 in an envelope addressed to:

**Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
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Attorney for Applicants

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd M. Parkhurst". Below the signature, the text "Attorney for Applicants" is printed in a smaller, standard font.

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